Funds for Setting up power projects

3272. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttaranchal, Jharkhand, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and North-Eastern States Governments have requested for funds to set up power projects in these States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) The power project to be set up by various State Governments are funded out of their States Power Plan outlay which is decided by the respective State Government within the approved overall State Plan size. The States mentioned in Part (a) of the Question have not approached Planning Commission exclusively for funds to set up power projects in their respective States.

In addition to State Plan funding, NER States have requested Planning Commission to provide funds under Non Lapsable Central Pool Resources (NLCPR) for power projects. During the current year (2001-2002), the following power generation projects have been proposed by NER States to fund out of NLCPR.

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Proposed amount during Annual Plan 2001-2002 (Rs. Crore)
1.	Likimro HEP, Nagaland (24 MW)	17.00
2.	Leimakhong HFO Based TPS, Manipur (36 MW)	2.87

Overcharging by NTPC for power sold to States

3273. SHRI K. M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the States have alleged that NTPC is overcharging the States for the power sold to them;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action proposed for one-time settlement to clear the out-standing dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The tariffs for NTPC power stations upto May, 1999 were determined by Govt. of India as per provisions in the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948. Thereafter this function now vests with Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) as per the provision in the Electricity Regulatory Commission Act, 1998. They have determined a few provisional tariffs for newly commissioned units. The CERC have decided that tariffs so far determined by the Govt. of India or provisionally determined by the Commission shall remain valid up to 31.3.2001. The commission, vide notification dated 4.4.2001, have further extended the validity of existing tariffs upto 30.9.2001 to enable them to determine revised tariffs to be effective from 1.4.2001.

NTPC raises bills every month based on tariffs notified as indicated above and in accordance with the Regional Energy Accounts issued by Regional Electricity Boards. Therefore, NTPC has not overcharged the states for the power sold by them.

(c) Pursuant to a decision taken in the Chief Minister's conference in March, 2001, the Expert Committee constituted by Government of India under the Chairmanship of Member (Energy), Planning Commission has submitted its report on one time settlement of outstanding dues of SEBs payable to CPSUs on 11.5.2001. The Expert Group has recommended substantial incentive to the State utilities to settle past dues and ensure full payment in future. These benefits include:

(i) Partial write-off of surcharge to the extent of 50% thereof.

(ii) CPSUs to give 2% of bond amount as cash incentive to those SEBs who open and maintain LCs without default by the specified dates.

(iii) Issuance of the tax-free bonds by the State Govts.

(iv) The cash incentives for a period of 4 year @4% of the face value of the bonds to SEBs for achieving the prescribed performance milestones by the SEBs.

Recommendations of the Expert Group were considered by the High Level Empowered Group of Chief Ministers and these Recommendations have been accepted with the following modifications.

(a) The Waiver of surcharge recommended by the Expert Group in-creased from 50% to 60%.

(b) The incentives for a period of 4 years @ 4% of the face value of the bonds for achievement of performance milestones by the SEBs increased to 6% in the first year and 5% in the second year.

All the State Govts. have been requested to initiate necessary steps for the implementations of the aforesaid scheme.

Setting up power plants in Meghalaya

3274. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of power plants proposed to be set up in the State of Meghalaya during the ninth five year plan;

(b) the details of power plants proposed to be set up during the next three years; and

(c) the details of funds allocated for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) No power plant is scheduled to be commissioned in the State of Meghalaya during the 9th Plan. However, one project viz. Myntdu St I (2x42MW) in distt. Jaintia Hill of Meghalaya was given techno economic clearance of Central Electricity Authority on 20.9.1999. The Project is awaiting Investment Clearance of Planning Commission and also clearance of Ministry of Environment and Forests. Further, a proposal from Meghalaya State Electricity Board for setting up two Heavy Fuel Oil based Diesel Generation Power Plants, of 4x6 MW capacity each, at Byrnihat and Mendipathar has been received in May, 2001 and is under examination in Central Electricity Authority.

Meghalaya has been allocated share from the following Central Power Stations commissioned during 9th plan:

Name of the Project	Share of Meghalaya
Kopil Extn (100 MW) 50 MW Commissioned in 8th Plan and 50 MW commissioned in 9th Plan	13MW
Kathalguri (90 MW)	20.1 MW
Agartala GPS (84 MW)	6MW
Doyang (75 MW)	5MW